Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

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INFO OCT-01 ARA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SS-15

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R 102124Z JUN 77 FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA TO SECSTATE WAHHDC 6370 INFO USCINCSO

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3691

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, PINT, GT

SUBJ: GUATEMALAN ARMY PROMOTIONS

- 1. PRESIDENT LAUGERUD JUNE 9 NOMINATED HIS MINISTER OF DEFENSE, BRIGADIER GENERAL OTTO GUILLERMO SPIEGELER NORIEGA, FOR PROMOTION TO MAJOR GENERAL, THE FIRST TIME THAT RANK HAS BEEN AWARDED SINCE PRESIDENT UBICO WAS OVERTHROWN IN 1944. WHILE SPIEGELER'S PROMOTION WAS A SURPRISE, LAUGERUD'S NOMINATIONS OF COLONELS GUILLERMO ECHEVERRIA VIELMAN AND HERNAN MORALES PAIZ FOR PROMOTION TO BRIGADIER GENERAL WERE EXPECTED. MORALES IS COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE MARISCAL ZAVALA BRIGADE, A POST TRADITIONALLY HELD BY A BRIGADIER GENERAL, AND ECHEVERRIA HAD RECENTLY BEEN NAMED DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE, WHOSE PREVIOUS HEAD WAS BRIGADIER GENERAL RICARDO PERALTA MENDEZ.
- 2. THE NOMINATIONS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ROUTINELY APPROVED BY CONGRESS IN TIME FOR THE NEW STARS TO BE AWARDED ON ARMY DAY, JUNE 30.
- 3. COMMENT: ONE REASON FOR SPIEGELER'S PROMOTION MAY BE THE LEGAL LIMIT ON THE NUMBER OF BRIGADIER GENERALS ON ACTIVE DUTY. THERE WAS ONLY ONE VACANCY WITHIN THE LIMIT, AND IN ORDER TO PROMOTE BOTH ECHEVERRIA AND UNCLASSIFIED

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MORALES IT WAS NECESSARY TO MOVE SPIEGELER UP. ANDREWS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X

Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: GROUND FORCES, MILITARY PERSONNEL, PERSONNEL PROMOTIONS

Control Number: n/a

Copy: SINGLE Sent Date: 10-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Decaption Note:

Disposition Action: n/a Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment:

Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am Disposition Event:

Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GUATEM03691
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D770209-0103 Format: TEL From: GUATEMALA

Handling Restrictions: n/a Image Path:

ISecure: 1 Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770670/aaaacjdu.tel

Line Count: 57 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: d8fced7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION PM

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Reference: n/a

Retention: 0 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags: Review Date: 09-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am

Review Event: Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:** Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 2203404 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

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TAGS: MILI, PINT, PGOV, GT, (SPIEGELER NORIEGA, OTTO GUILLERMO), (ECHEVERRIA VIELMAN, GUILLERMO), (MORALES PAIZ, HERNAN) To: STATE

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/d8fced7f-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009

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